



Docket No.: 50432-104

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Suzette K. PANGRLE, et al.

Serial No.: 10/073,066

Filed: February 12, 2002

For: PHOSPHINE TREATMENT OF LOW DIELECTRIC CONSTANT MATERIALS
IN SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE MANUFACTURING

Group Art Unit: 2813

Examiner: Thanh Nguyen

PATENT

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed September 13, 2002 requiring election of restricted claims pursuant to 35 USC 121. In the Office Action, Applicant is required to elect one of two groups of claims, including:

Group I - claims 1-15, drawn to a method of forming a composite dielectric on a semiconductor substrate; or

Group II, claims 16-17, drawn to the composite structure.

Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a method, with traverse.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the restriction requirement in light of the fact that a search of the method claims would most likely uncover relevant art to the composite structure claims. As such, the burden on the Examiner to search both groups of claims would not be high whereas the burden on Applicant to prosecute and

maintain two applications is relatively higher. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the election requirement.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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